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CLASSIFICATION <del>SECRET</del>		25X1A
COUNTRY	East Germany	SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT NO.
TOPIC	Oranienburg KVPD, I Mecz Command of the Berlin VFB.	25X1
EVALUATION	see below	PLACE OBTAINED
DATE OF CONTENT		25X1A
DATE OBTAINED		DATE PREPARED 25X1A 6 October 1953
REFERENCES		25X1A
PAGES	2	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)
REMARKS		

SOURCE

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1. On 20 August 1953, the former Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Oranienburg was occupied by a KVPD of 1,500 men, whose designation was the I Mecz Command and which included infantry, artillery and tank units. Source observed one engineer battalion of soldiers wearing light-blue service colors; one tank battalion of soldiers wearing dark-blue service colors; one signal battalion of soldiers wearing yellow-bordered black epaulets; and three infantry battalions of soldiers wearing ruby service colors. Administrative members of the unit wore dark-green service color.
2. Prior to 2 August, Lieutenant Colonel Strelitz (fnu), was commander of the I Mecz Command. He later was reassigned to the Ministry of the Interior and was succeeded by Major Schroeder (fnu).<sup>3</sup> Chief of staff was Captain Berger (fnu). Officers assigned to the II Inf Bn included Captain Gloge (fnu), commander; Senior Lieutenant Schumacher (fnu), deputy commander; and Senior Lieutenant Vetter (fnu), political officer.
3. At the time of information, the II Inf Bn was organized into three rifle companies of 55 men each; one heavy machine gun platoon of 25 men and 5 machine guns; one AT gun platoon of 18 men and three 76.2-mm guns; one medium mortar platoon of 18 men and 5 mortars; and one signal platoon of one officer and 12 enlisted men. Each rifle squad numbered seven men and was equipped with one machine gun, three submachine guns and three rifles.
4. Practices held by the troops besides border guard service included moving up to assembly area and assembly, attack and defense at company level. 1
5. It was rumored that the mechanized commands were scheduled to receive new uniforms. The NCOs in charge of clothing said that the new uniforms would also be equipped with certain army insignia. 2

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6. On 1 September 1953, source noted that the new designation of the Oranienburg KVPD was Berlin Volkspolizeibereitschaft (VP Alert Force), I Mecz Command Oranienburg. [REDACTED] and was commanded by Major Schroeder (fnu). At the time of information, the II Mecz Command was stationed at Potsdam and the III Mecz Command was stationed at Klietz. 3

1. [REDACTED] Comment. The term of border guard service probably refers to commitment on the sector border in Berlin or in the ring around Berlin.

2. [REDACTED] Comment. Deserters also indicated that new uniforms would be introduced.

3. [REDACTED] Comment. The apparent renaming of the Oranienburg alert force into I Mecz Command is indicative of a reassignment of the unit. The alert force was subordinate directly to the Ministry of the Interior. The Potsdam alert force also seems to have been renamed into mechanized command. This unit had also been subordinate directly to the Ministry of the Interior. It may be noted that the Hohenstuecken alert force, which is or was also subordinate directly to the Ministry of the Interior, is not mentioned in connection with the Berlin VP alert force, which seems to have been recently organized. Since it would have been possible to integrate the Hohenstuecken alert force as III Mecz Command into the Berlin VP alert force, it appears strange that, instead, the Klietz alert force, which was subordinate to the [REDACTED] at Schwerin, and [REDACTED] is mentioned as III Mecz Command. The Oranienburg unit [REDACTED] Source probably erred. Major Schroeder was the previous commander of the Sternbuchholz alert force.

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